

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /094 W
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R 051352Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 894
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: IMMINENT JUDGMENT IN PRETORIA ANC TRIAL

REF: PRETORIA 1361 AND PREVIOUS

1. JUSTICE MYBURGH, PRESIDING JUDGE IN PRETORIA'S ANC "DE NOVO" TRIAL (SEE REFTELS) BEGAN READING HIS FINAL JUDGMENT DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 5 IN THE PRETORIA SUPREME COURT. UNLIKE THE PRIOR DAILY PROCEEDINGS, THE PUBLIC GALLERY WAS PACKED AND THE PRESS BOX WAS FULL. EMBOFF AT TRIAL NOTICED THAT DURING FIRST PART OF MORNING SESSION APPROXIMATELY HALF OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES WERE WHITE (EVEN EXCLUDING THE PLAIN-CLOTHED SECURITY POLICE). SECURITY AT COURTHOUSE WAS HEAVY, EMBOFF COUNTED AT LEAST 24 UNIFORMED POLICEMENT, MANY WITH MACHINE PISTOLS, A
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NUMBER OF POLICE DOGS, AND A PADDYWAGON AT THE READY IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE. ALL POCKETBOOKS AND PARCELS WERE INSPECTED AND ONE RELATIVE OF AN ACCUSED WAS ARRESTED, FOR NO APPARENT REASON, BEFORE SHE COULD ENTER THE COURTROOM.

2. THE PRETORIA TWELVE" APPEAR WELL. THEY SEEM PLEASED WITH THE HIGH ATTENDANCE ON THIS LAST DAY AND

THE OUTWARD SHOW OF SOLIDARITY--ACCORDING TO A DEFENSE LAWYER, THEY ARE IN "ROARING HIGH SPIRITS--EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS APPARENT THEY WILL BE CONVICTED. MYBURGH IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE READING HIS JUDGMENT EITHER LATE APRIL 5 OR EARLY APRIL 6. SENTENCING IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE APRIL 7. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FINAL JUDGMENT WHEN COMPLETE.

3. COMMENT: UNUSUAL ELEMENT IN COURT WAS HIGH NUMBER OF WHITE LIBERALS AND EASE IN WHICH THEY CONVERSED WITH SEVERAL OF THE TWELVE ACCUSED DESPITE PRESENCE OF POLICE. BULK OF CONVERSATION CONSISTED OF CONVEYING GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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